



Organizational Meeting  
Friday, June 29, 2018 – 3:30 P.M.  
Hotel Acacia/Palo Verde Rooms



## INTRODUCTION AND STATE DEPUTY'S EXPECTATIONS

Reverend Father, Worthy State Officers, Worthy Past State Deputies, Worthy Vice-Supreme Master, Worthy District Master, Worthy District Deputies, Brother Knights All. Welcome to the Organization Meeting for the 2018-2019 Fraternal Year. I thank each of you for accepting my invitation to be part of the leadership team for the Knights of Columbus in Arizona. Each of you was chosen because you have exemplified strong leadership qualities and a desire to move the principles of the Knights forward. Again, thank you.

Your selection to be a District Deputy was not accidental, or coincidental. Your actions over the years have been observed and evaluated. We believe that you are the right person for the job. You are among an elite group of Brother Knights. With this prominent status, comes great responsibility. When you install the officers of each of your councils, you will tell them that you are, "the official representative of our worthy State Deputy." You will also inform them that you will be there for the next year to be a, "...guide, mentor, advisor and friend." These words are not to be taken lightly. They are not mere words. Rather, they comprise a responsibility, a bond, and a promise that you make to each of your councils. It is a contract that you enter into with the Council. In the ceremony, you next tell them, "My duty is agreeable as it provides me the opportunity to direct the footsteps of a newly elected group of men on a road to gratifying achievement. It is a privilege because in so doing it is my prerogative to witness what may well be the beginning of a new era of progress which will enhance the already noteworthy status of this Council." You get to be witness to and be a part of the accomplishments of the Council. You are not just sitting on the sidelines watching them succeed or fail.

As a District Deputy, you are expected to work closely with your councils to assist them achieve their goals. If they do not have any goals, you will work with the council leaders to develop goals for their programs that are aligned with the State Council's goals for charitable outreach, in building the domestic church at the parish level, in growing their membership, and to ultimately achieve Star Council status this fraternal year. My expectation is that you will succeed. Failure is not an option. Mark my words; I will replace any District Deputy who fails to assist their councils. Brothers, we are engaging in serious work here to help our pastors build up their parishes, to support men and women as they discern their vocation, to protect families, to protect life at all stages, to protect our children. We cannot do this without strong councils. Councils cannot survive without strong support from their District Deputy. Period.

To help further emphasize the importance of the responsibility of your position, I've taken and modified a sentence from the First-Degree ceremony. "If any District Deputy here thinks he should not take, or cannot keep, his obligation to his councils, let him so announce, and he will be permitted to depart, and we will find another Brother Knight who will take and will fulfill this obligation to be guide, mentor, advisor, friend, and leader of his councils."

I am not challenging your loyalty to the Order or to the Knights of Columbus in Arizona. You would not be here today, if your loyalty was in question. I want you to understand very clearly the gravity of the responsibility you have agreed to undertake. I know that we are all volunteers and that the duties and responsibilities of this position will take time away from your spouses, friends and family. To do what we need to do will require us all to find the time and make the effort to guide and assist the councils with simple and often challenging tasks. If they need help completing required paperwork and forms, you will assist them. If necessary, you may need to help with personal issues. If needed, you may aid them in communicating with their pastor, or other groups in the parish. You don't do this from afar, but rather you will need to get up close and personal with each council.

You cannot do this job alone. That's why you need a District Warden by your side. He will help with ceremonials and can attend meetings of councils if you have a scheduling conflict. Your District Warden could be someone you would like to mentor to be your replacement someday. Take the long view in everything you do. Don't repeat the past, but rather look for new ways to solve old problems. Be creative.

Another thing you shall do is create a District Action Plan that will identify the strengths and weaknesses of each council and what needs to be done to help them meet their goals to achieve Star Council. Do this right away and send a copy to me Arizona Knights of Columbus State Deputy. Please, don't just say you're going to do one. Do it. This will be a great tool for you to use all year long. Besides, it will help the State Officers get to know the councils and their needs so we can allocate resources to help you.

I've mentioned the word goals a few times. I recently returned from State Deputy training in New Haven. During the training, they presented to me the Supreme Goals for Arizona for the coming fraternal year. We have been asked to recruit 950 new members. They want us to produce 30 Star Councils. We've been asked to add two New Councils, to reactivate three, and to establish 25 Round Tables. Brothers, we can do this. I know we can. I am so confident that we can achieve our Supreme Goals, that I am proposing that we exceed these

goals. These are the Arizona State Council Goals for the 2018-2019 fraternal year: 1,000 New Members, 50 Star Councils, 10 Star Districts, 3 All Star Districts, 11 New Councils, and 30 Round Tables. I know it won't be easy, but it is what we need to do to ensure that the Knights in Arizona continue to grow and flourish.

Remember, the Knights of Columbus is the strong right arm of the Catholic Church. It can only be the strong right arm of the Catholic Church if the local council is the strong right arm of their pastor. The local council cannot be the strong right arm of the pastor if they do not have a strong and helpful District Deputy standing at their side.

I ask you, what is at stake in being a Knight? What is at stake in the future of this organization? Why is it so important that the organization grows? Who else can the pastor turn to? Who will the seminarians turn to? How can our church grow if we don't grow? Brothers, the Knights of Columbus have to be the ones that grow. We have to stand firm and say things are going to get better, because we're going to make things better. That's what Fr. McGivney did. That's what we will do. We have to build the Domestic Church ourselves. We have to be charitable. We have to stand together in unity and fraternity. We have to be the leaders. We have to be the brand...an understandable brand...and clearly communicate why we stand for certain things (faith, marriage, life, family, youth) and why we do certain things, and why it is you who they can count on. Remember, it is not what you say, by what you do, and by who you are.

Over the next two days we will provide you with the tools you will need to be a highly successful District Deputy this coming fraternal year. Absorb this knowledge so that it will give you what you need to help your councils succeed.

I'm Tom Kalisz and I'm a Knight of Columbus!

Vivat Jesus